required to identify the needy students eligible for scholarship from the families of Janashree Bima Yojana members and to guide them to fill up the application form (available with Nodal Agency). The duly completed form will have to be deposited with the Nodal agency. The Nodal Agency certifies all the application forms received from deserving students. The list of the beneficiary students is then forwarded to the concerned LIC P&GS Unit for disbursement of scholarship/s. The scholarship/s will be disbursed to the beneficiary students through the concerned Nodal Agency.

Since the number of scholarships are limited, the selection of the beneficiaries will be made from the poorest of the poor students.

Administration of the Scheme

The Scheme is administered through Pension & Group Schemes Department of LIC of India. Nodal Agencies are required to maintained records and submit certificates/details of utilisation periodically.

Construction of Hostels in Delhi University by NEC

969. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3458, given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th July, 1998 and state:

(a) The status of the hostels constructed in North and South Campuses of University of Delhi by NEC fund, indicating the location, final cost, dates of their full functioning and the pattern of seat allocation; and

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay and responsibility fixed on persons neglecting this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi construction of one 100-seated hostel each in North and South Campuses of the University at estimated cost of Rs.313.00 lakhs and Rs. 281.00 lakhs respectively has been undertaken by the University with the funds made available by the

North Eastern Council (NEC). The construction of the hostel in the North Campus is at an advanced stage and the hostel is expected to start functioning from the next academic session. As regards the hostel in the South Campus, against the funds amounting to Rs. 229.00 lakhs released by the NEC the construction work costing Rs. 254.00 lakhs has already been undertaken and this hostel may also start functioning from the next academic session provided the balance funds required for completion of the construction work are released by the NEC. In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon by the University, and the NEC 70 seats in each of these two hostels will be allocated for the students of the North Eastern States but in order to avoid segregation these seats will be distributed in other hostels of the University also.

(b) The delay in construction of the hostel in the North Campus has mainly been on account of slow progress by the NBCC to whom the work was allotted. The University has already issued show-cause notice to NBCC for claiming compensation for the delay. As regards the delay in construction of the hostel at South Campus, apart from the presence of huge hard rock strata at the site, the delay in release of funds by the NEC is also a contributing factor. The University has already taken up the matter with the NEC for early release of the balance funds.

Bio-Technology Centre at Allahabad

970. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Russian Centre for Biotechnology has been set up recently at Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the nature and extent of co-operation extended by Russia and the pattern of funding and sharing the results of various projects; and

(c) the details of specific projects identified to be taken up in different areas/disciplines of biotechnology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA